

1 **Amendments to the Claims:**

2 Claim 1 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:  
3 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,  
4 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between  
5 a first raised position wherein the device is cocked and a second depressed position wherein  
6 the device is fired,  
7 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,  
8 a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its  
9 striking position,  
10 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds  
11 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle  
12 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar means  
13 is integrally molded as a part of said lower body portion.  
14 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first  
15 position to its second position, said blade means deforms a portion of said trigger bar means  
16 whereby said deformed trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its cocked  
17 position and said deformed trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of holding said needle  
18 assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

19 Claim 2 (canceled)

20 Claim 3 (currently amended): The device of claim 2 1 wherein said trigger bar means  
21 includes a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second ends, said  
22 first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is moved to said  
23 second position.

24 Claim 4 (original): The device of claim 3 wherein said blade means comprises first and  
25 second guillotine type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse  
26 crossbar when the device is fired.

1 Claim 5 (canceled)

2 Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said drive spring comprises a free  
3 floating spring and further comprising bounceback spring means integrally formed with said  
4 needle assembly.

5 Claim 7 (currently amended): The device of claim 6 wherein said bounceback spring  
6 means comprises a pair of spring arms.

7 Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 7 wherein each of said spring arms is generally  
8 V-shaped.

9 Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said trigger bar means is  
10 compressible by said blade means, and said trigger bar means has a first extended position  
11 in which the device is cocked and a second compressed position in which the device is fired.

12 Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 1 wherein said trigger comprises:  
13 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger  
14 button having a first raised and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,  
15 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said body, said  
16 trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between said proximal and  
17 distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second positions and is  
18 unstable at any intermediate position.

19 Claim 11 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:  
20 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,  
21 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between  
22 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which  
23 the device is fired,  
24 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,  
25 a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its  
26 striking position,

1 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds  
2 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle  
3 assembly is movable to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar  
4 means is integrally molded as a part of said lower body portion.

5 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first  
6 position to its second position, said blade means severs a portion of said trigger bar means  
7 causing said partially severed trigger bar means to release said needle assembly from its  
8 cocked position and thereafter preventing said partially severed trigger bar means from holding  
9 said needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

10 Claim 12 (canceled)

11 Claim 13 (currently amended): The device of claim 42 11 wherein said trigger bar  
12 means includes a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second ends,  
13 said first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is moved to  
14 said second position.

15 Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13 wherein said blade means comprises first  
16 and second guillotine type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse  
17 crossbar when the device is fired.

18 Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14 wherein said trigger bar means includes a  
19 support stem to prevent said transverse crossbar from falling out of said body after said first  
20 and second ends are severed.

21 Claim 16 (canceled)

22 Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein said drive spring comprises a free  
23 floating spring and further comprising bounceback spring means integrally formed with said  
24 needle assembly.

25 Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 17 wherein said bounceback spring comprises  
26 a pair of generally V-shaped spring arms.

1 Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 11 wherein said trigger comprises:

2 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger  
3 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,  
4 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said upper portion  
5 of said body, said trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between  
6 said proximal and distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second  
7 positions and is unstable at any intermediate position.

8 Claim 20 (original): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:

9 a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,  
10 a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between  
11 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which  
12 the device is fired,

13 a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,  
14 a free-floating drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked  
15 position to its striking position,

16 a bounceback spring means integrally formed with said needle assembly,  
17 trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds  
18 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle  
19 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring,

20 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first  
21 position to its second position, said blade means severs a portion of said trigger bar means  
22 whereby said partially severed trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its  
23 cocked position and said partially severed trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of  
24 holding said needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

25 Claim 21 (canceled)  
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1        Claim 22 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein said trigger bar means includes a  
2 support stem and a transverse crossbar, said transverse crossbar having first and second  
3 ends, said first and second ends being severed by said blade means when said trigger is  
4 moved to said second position.

5        Claim 23 (original): The device of claim 22 wherein said blade means comprises first  
6 and second guillotine-type blades which sever said first and second ends of said transverse  
7 crossbar when the device is fired.

8        Claim 24 (original): The device of claim 20 wherein said trigger comprises:  
9                a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger  
10 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,  
11 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said upper portion  
12 of said body, said trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between  
13 said proximal and distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second  
14 positions and is unstable at any intermediate position.

15        Claim 25 (currently amended): A single-use disposable lancet device comprising:  
16                a body having an upper portion and a lower portion,  
17                a trigger carried by said upper portion of said body, said trigger movable between  
18 a first raised position in which the device is cocked and a second depressed position in which  
19 the device is fired,  
20                a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking position,  
21                a drive spring for moving said needle assembly from its cocked position to its  
22 striking position,  
23                trigger bar means having a first position wherein said trigger bar means holds  
24 said needle assembly in its cocked position and having a second position wherein said needle  
25 assembly is moved to its striking position by said drive spring, wherein said trigger bar means  
26 is integrally molded as part of said lower body portion.

1 blade means carried by said trigger, and as said trigger moves from its first  
2 position to its second position, said blade means irreparably breaks a portion of said trigger  
3 bar means whereby said broken trigger bar means releases said needle assembly from its  
4 cocked position and said broken trigger bar means is thereafter not capable of holding said  
5 needle assembly in its cocked position, thereby limiting the device to a single use.

6 Claim 26 (canceled)

7 Claim 27 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising a  
8 depressible trigger button, wherein the depressible trigger button carries two vertical blades  
9 which sever a portion of said trigger bar means when the trigger button is depressed.

10 Claim 28 (canceled)

11 Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 25 in which a support stem is molded onto  
12 the trigger bar and is bendable downward when the device is fired, thereby retaining the trigger  
13 bar within the body of the device.

14 Claims 30-33 (canceled)

15 Claim 34 (currently amended): In a lancet device for drawing a capillary blood sample,  
16 wherein a needle assembly is carried within a body, and said needle assembly is movable  
17 between a cocked position, a striking position and an at rest position, the improvement  
18 comprising:

19 a free floating mainspring means for driving said needle assembly from its  
20 cocked position to its striking position, and

21 bounceback spring means carried by said needle assembly for returning said  
22 needle assembly from said striking position to said at rest position, said bounceback spring  
23 means being integrally formed with said needle assembly, wherein said bounceback spring  
24 means comprises a pair of spring arms.

25 Claim 35 (canceled)

1        Claim 36 (currently amended): The device of claim ~~35~~ 34 wherein each of said spring  
2 arms is generally V-shaped.

3        Claims 37-38 (canceled)

4        Claim 39 (original): The method of automatically assembling a lancet device in a  
5 cocked position, wherein the components of said lancet device include an upper body portion  
6 having proximal and distal ends, a lower body portion having proximal and distal ends, a  
7 mainspring and a needle assembly having a removable tailpiece, and wherein an opening is  
8 formed in said proximal ends of one or both of said body portions of said device for temporarily  
9 receiving said tailpiece, comprising the steps:

10                supporting said lower body portion,  
11                automatically loading said mainspring onto said tailpiece,  
12                automatically compressing said mainspring on said tailpiece,  
13                automatically and temporarily holding said compressed mainspring on said  
14 tailpiece,  
15                automatically loading said needle assembly with said compressed mainspring  
16 into said lower body portion,  
17                automatically closing the device by attaching said upper body portion to said  
18 lower body portion, and  
19                severing said tailpiece from said needle assembly, leaving said cocked  
20 mainspring in position ready to cause said needle assembly to fire.

21        Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 39 wherein said mainspring is compressed  
22 and held on said tailpiece by an automatic compression tool, and wherein said automatic  
23 compression tool is withdrawn through said opening after the device is closed.

24        Claim 41 (original): The method of assembling a lancet device in a cocked position,  
25 wherein the components of said lancet device include an upper body portion having proximal  
26 and distal ends, a lower body portion having proximal and distal ends, a mainspring and a

1 needle assembly having a removable tailpiece, and wherein an opening is formed in said  
2 proximal ends of one or both of said body portions of said device for temporarily receiving said  
3 tailpiece, comprising the steps:

4 supporting said lower body portion,  
5 loading said mainspring onto said tailpiece,  
6 compressing said mainspring on said tailpiece,  
7 temporarily holding said compressed mainspring on said tailpiece,  
8 loading said needle assembly with said compressed mainspring into said lower  
9 body portion,  
10 closing the device by attaching said upper body portion to said lower body  
11 portion, and  
12 severing said tailpiece from said needle assembly, leaving said cocked  
13 mainspring in position ready to cause said needle assembly to fire.

14 Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41 wherein said mainspring is compressed  
15 and held on said tailpiece by a compression tool, and wherein said compression tool is  
16 withdrawn through said opening after the device is closed.

17 Claim 43 (original): In a single-use disposable lancet device having a body with upper  
18 and lower portions, a needle assembly movable between a cocked position and a striking  
19 position, and a drive spring for advancing said needle assembly, the improvement comprising:

20 a one-way trigger button molded into said upper portion of said body, said trigger  
21 button having a first retracted and cocked position and a second depressed and firing position,  
22 said trigger button having distal and proximal ends pivotally connected to said body, said  
23 trigger button having a running length that exceeds the distance between said proximal and  
24 distal ends, so that said trigger button is stable only in its first and second positions and is  
25 unstable at any intermediate position.



1        Claim 44 (original): The device of claim 43 wherein said trigger button comprises three  
2 segments, a first segment forming said distal end of said trigger button which is concave and  
3 adapted to comfortably receive a user's fingertip, a second segment forming said proximal end  
4 of said trigger button, and a third segment which is positioned between said first and second  
5 segments.

6        Claim 45 (original): The device of claim 44 wherein said third segment is inclined  
7 between said first and second segments.

8        Claim 46 (original): The device of claim 45 wherein said three segments create an  
9 over-the-center motion of said trigger, wherein said trigger is unstable at intermediate positions  
10 between said cocked and firing positions.

11        Claim 47 (original): The device of claim 46, wherein said trigger button remains in its  
12 depressed firing position after the device is fired.